

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A digital camera, comprising:

a motion picture recording unit configured to obtain a motion picture by continuously recording the motion picture, and a still picture recording/storage unit composed of a still picture recording unit configured to record a still picture by releasing a shutter and a picture storage unit configured to store the still picture;

a compression unit configured to compress the respective frames constituting the motion picture and provides compressed motion picture data in a predetermined operation mode;

an interface unit configured to output the compressed motion picture data in an appropriate format and to output the still picture;

a multiplex unit configured to output the compressed motion picture and the still picture by time-division multiplexing; and

a picture selection unit configured to permit a user to select a picture by any of the recording of the still picture by releasing the shutter and the designation of a picture stored in the picture storage unit,

wherein the compression unit comprises a selected picture output unit configured to provide, when the user selects [[a]] the picture by the picture selection unit, the selected picture without compressing the selected picture instead of the compressed motion picture data.

Claim 2 (Previously Presented): A digital camera according to claim 1, wherein the selected picture output unit comprises a still picture compression unit configured to compress the selected picture at a still picture compression rate that is lower than the compression rate

of the compression unit to thereby provide the selected picture by compressing the selected picture at the still picture compression rate instead of the compressed motion picture data.

Claim 3 (Previously Presented): A digital camera according to claim 1, wherein the compression unit configured to provide the compressed motion picture data further comprises a picture reduction unit configured to thin out the pixels of the respective frames by a predetermined procedure.

Claim 4 (Previously Presented): A digital camera according to claim 2, wherein the selected picture output unit further comprises a gray scaling unit configured to gray scale color picture data and a unit configured to allow the user to select any of the still picture compression unit the selected picture and the gray scaling unit.

Claim 5 (Previously Presented): A digital camera according to claim 2, wherein the selected picture output unit further comprises:

a binarizing unit configured to binarize picture data; and
a unit configured to allow the user to select any of the still picture compression unit and the binarizing unit in the compression of the selected picture.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): A digital camera according to claim 1, wherein the picture selection unit comprises the shutter, a release button of the shutter, and a motion picture selection unit configured to use a picture recorded in relation to the manipulation of the release button manipulated by the user in the predetermined operation mode as [[a]] the selected picture.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): A digital camera according to claim 1, wherein the picture selection unit comprises a unit configured to allow the user to select [[a]] the still picture from [[the]] still pictures stored in the picture storage unit.

Claim 8 (Previously Presented): A digital camera according to claim 7, further comprising an external storage device interface unit configured to allow data to be transmitted between a detachable external storage device and the picture storage unit biaxially as well as the external storage device interface unit configured to allow the detachable external storage device to be mounted and dismounted in a predetermined operation mode.

Claim 9 (Previously Presented): A digital camera according to claim 1, wherein the still picture recording unit and the motion picture recording unit comprise a unit configured to obtain the selected picture by combining two pictures recorded continuously in time.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): A digital camera according to claim 1, further comprising a selection button configured to permit the user to designate a selected picture transmission rate of a selected picture transmission amount of the selected picture, the selected picture being transmitted during a still picture output period from the start of output of the selected picture to the end of output thereof to a total transmission amount of the selected picture and [[a]] the motion picture which are output during the selected picture output period, wherein

the multiplex unit is further configured to perform time-division multiplexing of the selected picture and the motion picture so that a designated selected picture transmission rate

is achieved when the user selects a picture by the picture selection unit at a time the selected picture transmission rate is designated to other than 100%.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): A digital camera according to claim 1, wherein the multiplex unit is included in the compression unit, and is further configured to output, when the user selects [[a]] the picture by the picture selection unit, the selected picture by time-division multiplexing the selected picture and the compressed motion picture data, and the multiplex unit comprises a unit configured to increase the transmission rate of the compressed motion picture data when the data amount of the selected picture is relatively small and decreases the transmission rate of the compressed motion picture data when the data amount of the selected picture is relatively large.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): A digital camera according to claim 1, further comprising:

a picture display unit configured to display [[a]] the picture;
a picture input unit configured to receive picture data from an external device;
a separation unit configured to separate a selected still picture from the received picture data and stores the selected still picture in the picture storage unit, and an expansion unit configured to expand picture data that passed through the separation unit; and
a unit configured to cause the user to designate which of the output from the compression unit and the received picture data is to be displayed,
wherein the user can selectively observe the picture data being transmitted and the received picture data.

Claim 13 (Cancelled).

Claim 14 (Previously Presented): The digital camera according to Claim 1, wherein the interface unit is further configured to output the still picture in an uncompressed format.